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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in Order to Promote Opportunities
Geneva, 14-16 November 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Elections of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Mainstreaming gender in order to promote opportunities
4. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I above. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is given below.

	Documentation
TD/B/COM.3/EM.14/1	Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3 - Mainstreaming gender in order to promote opportunities

3. The decision to convene an Expert Meeting on the above topic was taken during the open-ended consultations conducted by the President of the Trade and Development Board on 30 January 2001. The mandate for this Expert Meeting is to consider "ways to improve the contribution of women in developing their countries' and regions' competitiveness, in increasing trading opportunities and in attracting investment and technology". While the Meeting will be the first expert event on gender perspectives within the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD, it can build on the results of the pre-UNCTAD X Expert Workshop on Trade, Sustainable Development and Gender (Geneva, 12-13 July 1999), which identified links between the globalization process and trade and development; work undertaken on enterprise development; and the outcome of a preparatory meeting held in connection with the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Clearly, considerable differences remain in women's and men's access to the potential benefits of globalization and to power in economic structures in their respective societies. This has an impact on the economy as a whole: according to recent research, gender inequalities harm the well-being of people and hinder development; thus, they impose costs on productivity, efficiency and economic progress.

4. In preparation for the Expert Meeting, various consultations were held in order to define key issues from the perspective of UNCTAD's substantive mandate where gender considerations could constitute a critical aspect of trade and development. The following issues were selected: (i) foreign direct investment; (ii) trade: services and commodities; (iii) enterprise development; and (iv) the potential impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The Expert Meeting will be geared towards reaching conclusions and policy options for consideration by the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development. The outcome of the Expert Meeting may include policy proposals for a strategy to improve the role of women in enhancing the competitiveness of their countries and regions, and for increasing trading opportunities and attracting investment and new technology.

5. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues paper on "Mainstreaming gender in order to promote opportunities" (TD/B/COM.3/EM.14/2). In addition, experts are invited to prepare brief papers on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the Meeting in the form and language in which they are received. The discussion will also be based on papers reflecting specific experiences to be presented by resource persons and invited representatives of organizations in the UN system or from civil society.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.14/2	Mainstreaming gender in order to promote opportunities

Item 4 - Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

6. The outcome will reflect the views expressed by the experts, and will be adopted at the end of the Meeting. The outcome is to be submitted to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development at its sixth session in 2002. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Schedule of the Meeting

Day 1 *(14 November 2001)*	*Day 2* *(15 November 2001)*	*Day 3* *(16 November 2001*
10.00-13.00 hrs. Plenary Opening statement *Item 1:* Election of officers *Item 2:* Adoption of the agenda and organization of work Informals	10.00-13.00 hours Informals (continued)	10.00-13.00 hrs. Informals (continued)
15.00-18.00 hrs. *Item 3:* Mainstreaming gender in order to promote opportunities Informal (continued) *Item 3:* (continued)	15.00-18.00 hrs. Informals (continued) *Item 3:* (continued)	15.00-18.00 hrs. Plenary (closing) *Item 4:* Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

Inputs from experts

7. Experts nominated by member States are invited to submit brief papers in advance of the Meeting to the UNCTAD secretariat. These will be made available to other participants at the Meeting in the language in which they are received. To facilitate the preparation of papers, experts may wish to take into account the questions in the last section of the secretariat's note (TD/B/COM.3/EM.14/2). Experts are invited to submit papers by 12 October 2001 to Ms. Gloria-Veronica Koch, Chief, Civil Society Outreach and Departmental Focal Point on Women, Executive Direction and Management (tel. 41-22- 907 5690; fax: 41-22-917 0122, e-mail: [redacted].